

Mary Beth Frideres

From: Ellen Leahy [LeahyE@ho.missoula.mt.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2009 4:31 PM
To: Frideres Mary Beth; Bowsher, Joan; Dorothy Bradshaw; Mary Pittaway; Julie Serstad
Cc: Allene Mares; Emily Colomeda; Joe Russell; Judy Griffin; Lil Anderson (Yellowstone); Melanie Reynolds; Rick Larson; Steph Nelson
Subject: WIC study group; FY10 budget recommendations
Importance: High

Joan, Thank you for arranging for an i-linc capability for the WIC study group tomorrow morning. I will, unfortunately, have to miss part of this meeting, but Dorothy Bradshaw will be present on behalf of the large county caucus.

The recommendations the large caucus would advocate for are consistent with those we supported throughout the past year of study group work as follows:

- 1) At this juncture, do NOT change the basic funding formula that the study group recommended and DPHHS adopted last year. This formula and the work that led to it needs to be honored. It has brought about:
 - a) narrowed the cost per client range
 - b) rewarded performance as based on caseload
 - c) at its last meeting, the study group agreed that this meeting would not look at significant formula changes (see #4 below)
- 2) Allocate a potential \$100,000 additional OA money into the matrix, even though we realize Montana may not get it, many departments are cutting staff and cutting deeper into WIC staff prematurely wastes training time and costs. If we have to cut because we don't actually get more OA or carryover, let's do it for real, not prematurely.
- 3) The \$60,000 reduction in cost allocation that was achieved by cutting number of computers should still be available to this program. We do not accept that it was a one-time cost savings. (we understand that some were, but this should be a continuing cost savings that could help local programs.)
- 4) The WIC Study Group (as was discussed at its last meeting) has more work particularly about regionalization and lead agency roles as well as tele-services to distant communities.

Thank you for making the information and the meeting more available to us at this busy time, and thank you Dorothy for taking this role for the large caucus. I will participate in as much of the i-linc as possible, but will definitely miss the 11 to noon portion for a funeral. Thank you. EL